

Idaho Employment

A monthly update of how Idaho's economy
is doing in your area

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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KENNETH D. EDMUNDS, DIRECTOR



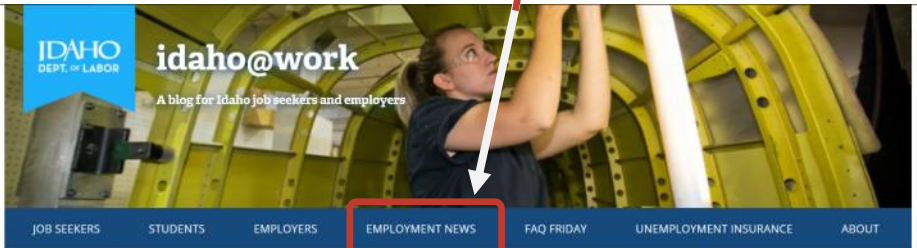
IDAHO EMPLOYMENT NEWSLETTER DELIVERY GOES EMAIL / BLOG-BASED

The Idaho Employment newsletter will no longer be produced in a PDF format after this edition. We've been transitioning all articles to our blog at <http://idaholabor.wordpress.com/> over the last few months. Under the tab "Employment News," articles are posted and available as they are released. You can subscribe to the blog or just check in frequently to keep up to date with the news. The blog also includes other information for job seekers and employers.

All Idaho Employment subscribers will continue to receive an email on the first of each month that will link to each article posted since the previous month.

Questions? Please call Jean Cullen at (208) 332-3570 ext. 3224.

Visit the Idaho Department of Labor's blog at <http://idaholabor.wordpress.com/>, which features information for job seekers, businesses, students, everyone. Newsletter articles are found under the "Employment News" tab as shown below.



Growing Occupations Offer Opportunities to New Idaho Grads

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Thousands of collegians have received their degrees and are starting – or hoping to start – careers for which they have spent four or more years studying. In the past year 1,248 students graduated from Idaho State University, many entering an economy showing signs of growth.

The tight job market graduates experienced during the past several years has loosened up.

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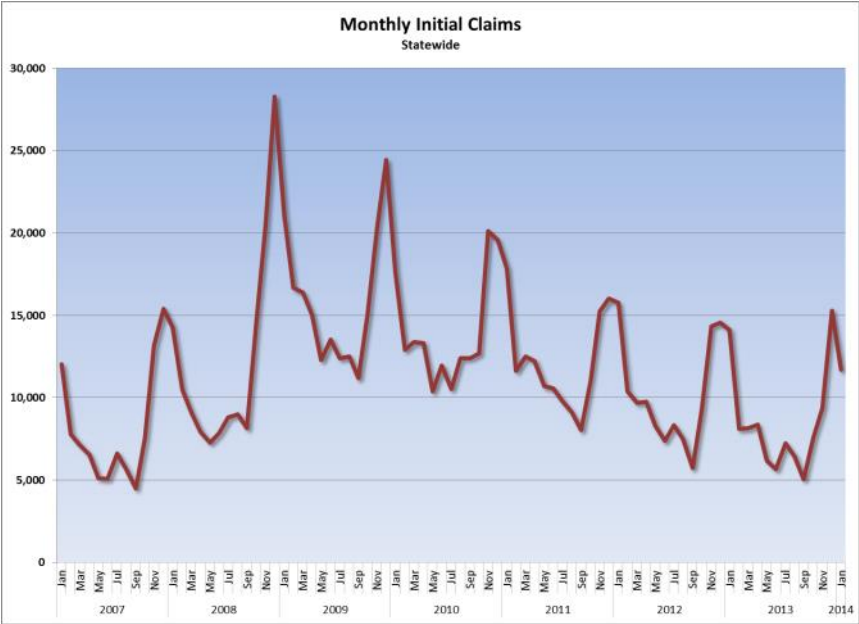
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UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS MAY INDICATE EMERGING EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Large decreases in initial claims imply impending employment strength and economic growth for Idaho.

Workers who lose their jobs and are covered by the unemployment insurance program usually file an initial unemployment claim, serving notice that they are beginning a period of unemployment. In 2008 only 36 percent of the total unemployed received unemployment insurance benefits nationwide, but information from those initial claims can indicate labor market conditions and provide insight into the direction of the economy.

Large increases in claims draw attention because they suggest looming employment weakness, which could spread throughout the economy. In the depths of the recession, the number of initial claims in Idaho hit a record



The Idaho Career Information System 2014 Fall Career Development Workshop series kicks off in Post Falls Sept. 18. Workshop trainers will travel to Lewiston, Boise, Nampa, Idaho Falls, Pocatello and finish up in Twin Falls Oct. 10.

New this year are three workshops in Boise Sept. 24, 25 and 26, designed especially for people who work with adults. Online registration for all workshops begins Aug. 1 at idahocis.org. Sign up early as these fill up fast.

The annual workshops, presented by the Idaho Department Labor's CIS, the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education — PTE — and Idaho's technical colleges, bring school counselors, workforce consultants, educators and others up to date on enhancements to CIS—the only comprehensive source of Idaho-specific career information on jobs, career requirements and postsecondary schools.

For more information, visit the [CIS calendar](#).

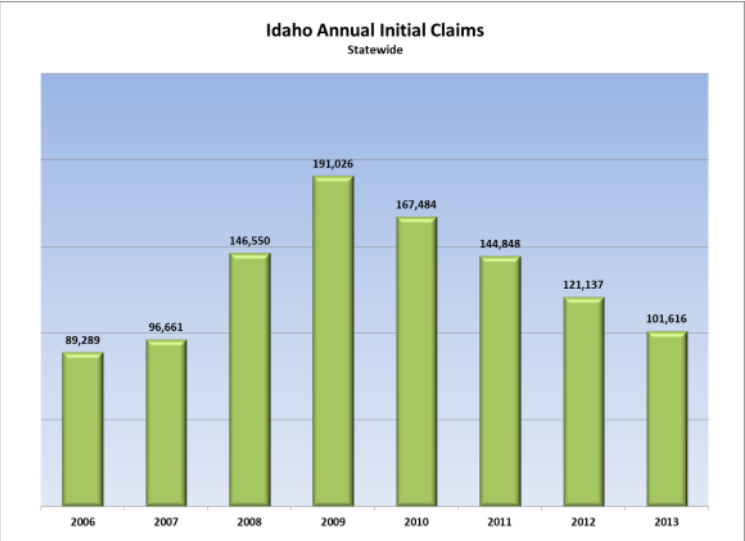
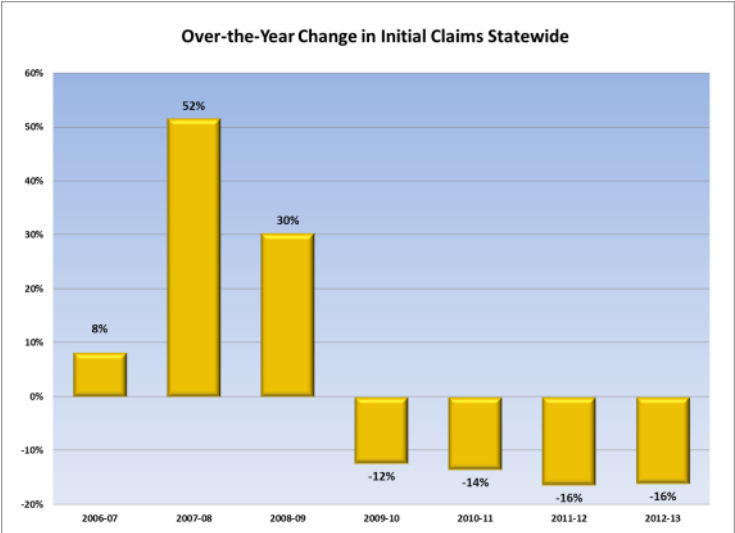
Questions? Contact CIS at (208) 334-3705 or idahocis@labor.idaho.gov.

28,314 in December 2008. Employment levels were plummeting and the number of workers filing continuing benefit claims each week was climbing.

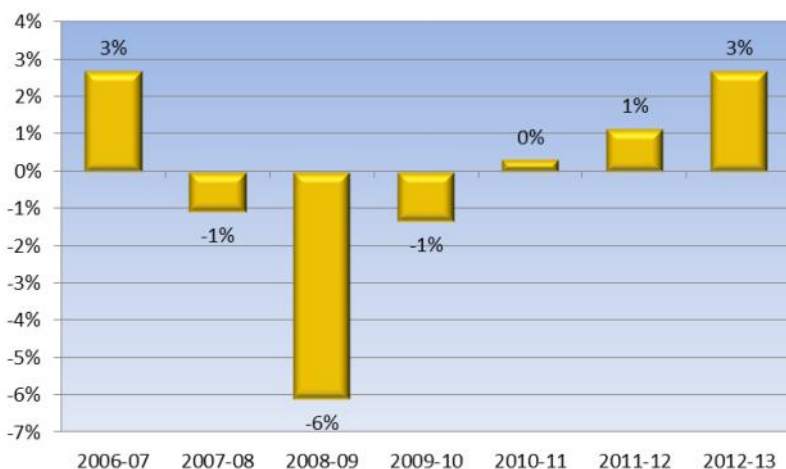
Typically the summer months produce higher employment— and fewer claims, but that was beginning to show signs of weakness in 2008. Tourism and retail sales slowed, followed by lower levels of employment in those sectors. New claims continued to rise through 2009, hitting 191,000 for the year.

On an annual basis, initial claims increased 74 percent from 96,661 in 2007 to 146,550 in 2008, indicating weakening employment that persisted through 2009 when initial claims peaked at over 190,000. As the economy started to mend and employment rose, initial claims decreased 12 percent the following year. Although there was little employment growth throughout 2011, new claims were off another 13.5 percent in 2011 and have been on the decline since — dropping from nearly 145,000 in 2011 to just 101,000 in 2013 — the lowest level since the recession began.

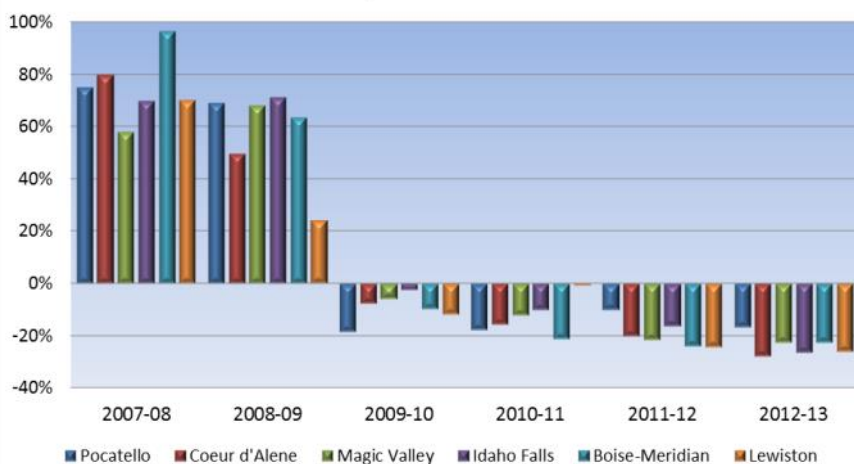
Then the economy’s seasonality started showing signs of returning to normal as the number of new claims began falling through 2010 and 2011. The economy was moving toward the road to recovery.



Year-Over-Year Change in Employment Statewide



**Year-Over-Year Change In Claims
By Metro Area**



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IDAHO'S POPULATION DENSITY SHIFT CAUSES OTHER CHANGES

Idaho's population growth – and the shifts toward more urban areas over the last several decades – has had differing effects on the population density in the 44 counties, and as density increases that generally impacts services. It can drive up the cost of living and adversely affect water and air quality and wildlife but increase community vibrancy and amenities.

The 1950 census found Canyon County with the highest density in the state. Neighboring Ada County was a distant second with 36 percent fewer people per square mile. While Canyon County is half the size of Ada County, it picked up residents as Ada County saw real estate prices escalate and open spaces decrease.

At the other end, Payette County is the state's smallest and one of its densest. With its comparatively small towns clustered near the interstate, Payette's density is the result of location near the Oregon border and the

Boise metropolitan area. Ontario, Ore., just over the border, attracts many Idaho workers because of its higher minimum wage – \$9.10 an hour versus Idaho’s \$7.25 – that drives up wages above the minimum as well.

Idaho's Five Smallest Counties and Their Density					
Rank by Area	Counties	Square Miles	Population Per Square Mile		
			1950	1980	2013
44	Payette	408	29	39	55
43	Teton	450	7	7	23
42	Madison	472	19	42	79
41	Lewis	479	9	9	8
40	Gem	563	16	21	30

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Teton saw the greatest increase in density from 1980 to 2013, spurred by its location close to Jackson Hole, Wyo., where many residents commute, and by technological advances that allow people to work remotely from a place of scenic beauty. Density rose 250 percent over 33 years. Seasonal tourism with its influx of workers and visitors or part-time residents causes population to fluctuate in Teton County. But there is stability because of access to the Jackson ski area in winter and to Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks.

Madison County, where the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has had an institution of higher education for over a century, saw dramatic growth when two-year Ricks College became Brigham Young University-Idaho

Idaho's Highest and Lowest Density Counties						
Rank	County	Density	County	Density	County	Density
	1950		1980		2013	
Top 10						
1	Canyon	91.0	Ada	165	Ada	395
2	Ada	67.0	Canyon	142	Canyon	337
3	Bannock	38.0	Bannock	59	Kootenai	116
4	Payette	29.0	Kootenai	48	Madison	79
5	Nez Perce	27.0	Madison	42	Bannock	75
6	Twin Falls	21.0	Nez Perce	39	Bonneville	58
7	Kootenai	20.0	Payette	39	Payette	55
8	Latah	19.5	Bonneville	35	Nez Perce	47
9	Madison	19.4	Twin Falls	28	Twin Falls	42
10	Bonneville	16.2	Latah	27	Jerome	38
Bottom 10						
35	Blaine	2.0	Adams	2.4	Clearwater	3.5
36	Lemhi	1.4	Idaho	1.7	Adams	2.8
37	Idaho	1.3	Lemhi	1.7	Valley	2.6
38	Butte	1.2	Boise	1.6	Idaho	1.9
39	Valley	1.2	Valley	1.5	Lemhi	1.7
40	Camas	1.0	Butte	1.5	Owyhee	1.5
41	Boise	0.9	Owyhee	1.1	Butte	1.2
42	Owyhee	0.8	Camas	0.8	Camas	1.0
43	Custer	0.7	Custer	0.7	Custer	0.9
44	Clark	0.5	Clark	0.5	Clark	0.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

in 2001. Density has nearly doubled since, prompting a construction boom of apartment complexes. Today, the state's third smallest county in area is its fourth densest in population.

For Nez Perce County, the experience since 1950 has been different. While the county and the Lewiston metro area have been growing, others have outpaced that growth, dropping Nez Perce from fifth densest in 1950 to eighth in 2013.

Bonneville County has steadily increased in density as its economy and jobs have continued expanding, anchored by the Idaho National Laboratory.

While the densities of the state's largest counties have increased four to six times since 1950, the density in Twin Falls County, which underpins the south central economy, increased just 50 percent.

Kootenai County's increase in density has been the most consistent over the past 63 years. Its scenic beauty – and the recreational amenities developed over the past 30 years – has attracted visitors who became residents or second-home owners.

Unlike Ada and Madison counties with their universities, Latah County and the University of Idaho have not experienced that magnitude of population growth, causing it to slip comparatively in density. It is also isolated geographically so it does not benefit from any population growth in nearby areas.

The least dense counties have essentially remained the same since 1950. Blaine and Boise counties have been replaced by Clearwater and Adams counties. Blaine has seen growth because of the world renowned Sun Valley resort while Boise County has grown as a bedroom community for Ada County. After a surge in population during the housing boom of the 1960s and 1970s, Clearwater County has essentially stagnated with its population falling back to levels approaching 1950. Adams County, which also has a resource-reliant economy, experienced a surge during the mid-2000s with activity on the Tamarack Resort in neighboring Valley County. But when the resort went under, economic activity subsided in both Adams and Valley counties.

Clearly density can be affected by many factors. Weather patterns, changes in the road infrastructure, geographic seclusion and bouts of job creation, such as North Dakota has been experiencing, affect growth or the lack of it. While increasing density has pluses and minuses, it is generally better than the stagnation that results when counties lose a major industry or are bypassed by rerouted highways.

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MIGRATION FACTORS INTO IDAHO'S NEWEST POPULATION ESTIMATES

Migration, both international and domestic, drove Idaho's significant population growth prior to the recession, but home equity erosion, a stagnant real estate market and lost jobs slowed Idaho's population growth.

Even as other states lose population, Idaho's has continued to grow at a much slower rate, but that growth has been natural – births exceeding deaths in a state where the median age of 35.2 years, more than two years below the

national median age. Utah with its larger families has the lowest median age among the states and the District of Columbia. Like Idaho, both North Dakota and California are states that see high levels of migration, based on driver’s license data from the Idaho Department of Transportation. Idahoans have looked to North Dakota for jobs while Californians have looked to Idaho for its quality of life and comparatively low housing prices.

In addition to charting demographic change, the Census Bureau’s annual population estimates are used by federal agencies to allocate funding and serve as a cornerstone of vital statistics, critical to calculating per capita rates for state-to-state comparisons.

POPULATION SHIFTS

During the economic expansion that preceded the recession, Idaho’s annual population growth was the result of migration from other states. In 2007, the peak of the expansion, Idaho’s population increased 35,524, with 60 percent of that due to migration from other states and some foreign countries. In 2013 the population grew by just 16,546, less than half of 2007’s growth, with 66 percent due to natural conditions – births exceeding deaths.

Growth declined dramatically in all six regions of the state prior to and after the recession and southeastern Idaho saw an actual decline in population from 2012 to 2013.

Southwestern Idaho - which accounts for 45 percent of the state's total population - remained the population magnet, accounting for 75 percent of the 2013 increase. That dominance reflected in part the unevenness of the recovery compared to the broader reach of the mid-2000s expansion, when in 2007, southwestern Idaho accounted for only 60 percent of the population increase.

2012 Median Age		
National Rank, Youngest to Oldest		
	Age	Rank
Utah	29.9	1
Idaho	35.2	5
California	35.5	6
Colorado	36.2	10
North Dakota	36.2	12
Arizona	36.6	15
Nevada	36.8	17
New Mexico	36.8	18
Wyoming	36.9	19
US	37.4	—
Washington	37.5	23
Oregon	38.9	38
Montana	40.2	45

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2007, 2013 Annual Population Change, % of Change By Region				
	2007	2013	% of 2007	% of 2013
Northern	4,617	2,135	13.0%	12.9%
North Central	568	149	1.6%	2.0%
Southwestern	21,427	12,377	60.3%	74.8%
South Central	2,806	1,841	7.9%	11.1%
Southeastern	1,002	-533	2.8%	-3.2%
Eastern	5,104	626	14.4%	3.5%
Statewide	35,524	16,595	100.0%	100.0%

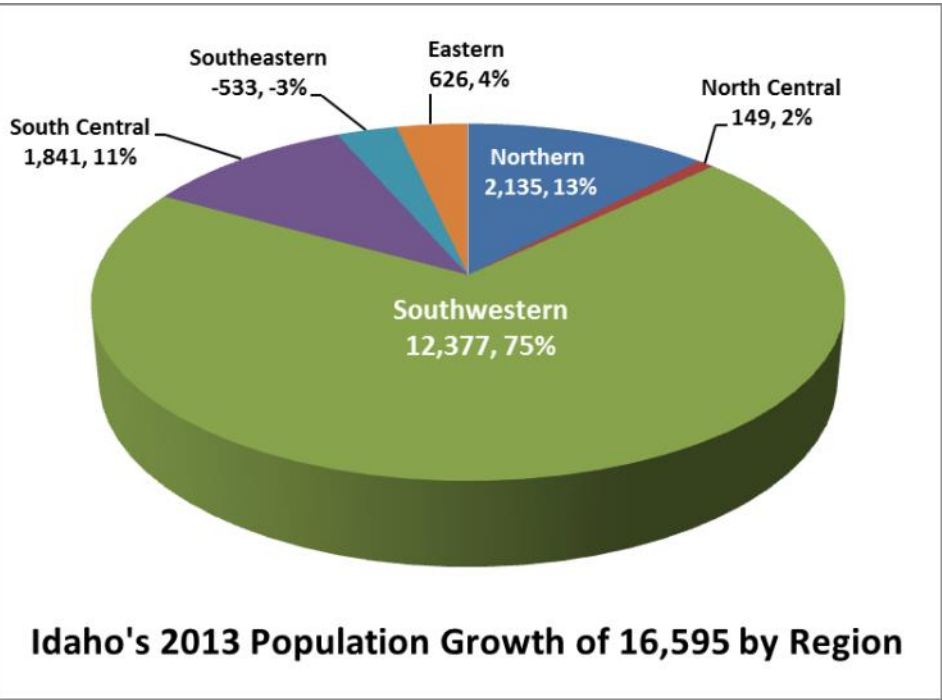
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Northern Idaho contributed 13 percent to the state's growth in 2007 and 2013 despite unemployment rates over 10 percent in both Shoshone and Benewah counties, where population actually declined in 2013.

North central Idaho continued to avoid wide statistical swings. Its contribution to population growth was only fractionally larger in 2013 than in 2007. The University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College continue to attract college students but not at the same rate as Boise State University, and fewer University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark graduates remain in the area.

South central Idaho experienced the least erosion in prerecession growth, increasing its contribution to the state's overall growth in 2013 by more than a third.

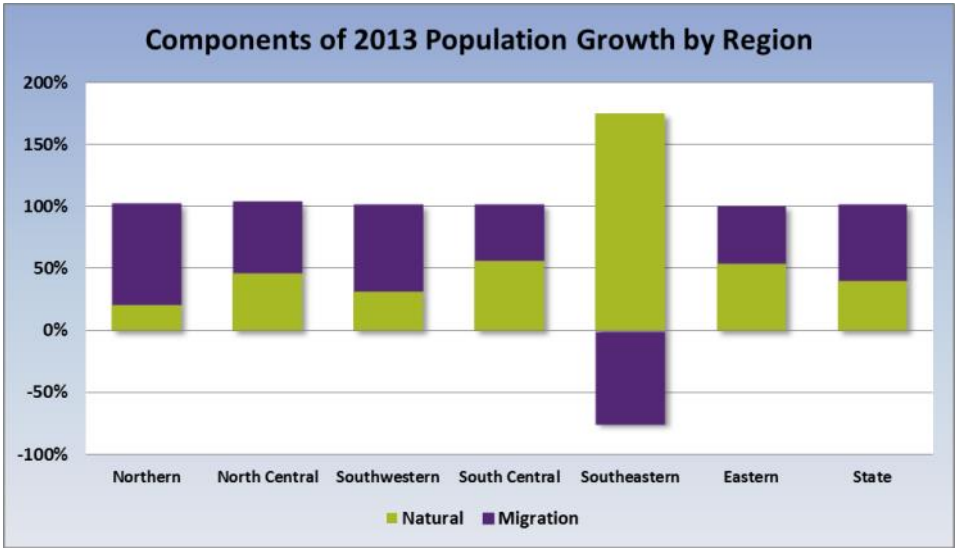
In eastern and southeastern Idaho, cutbacks at the Idaho National Laboratory were offset by strength in agriculture and higher education.



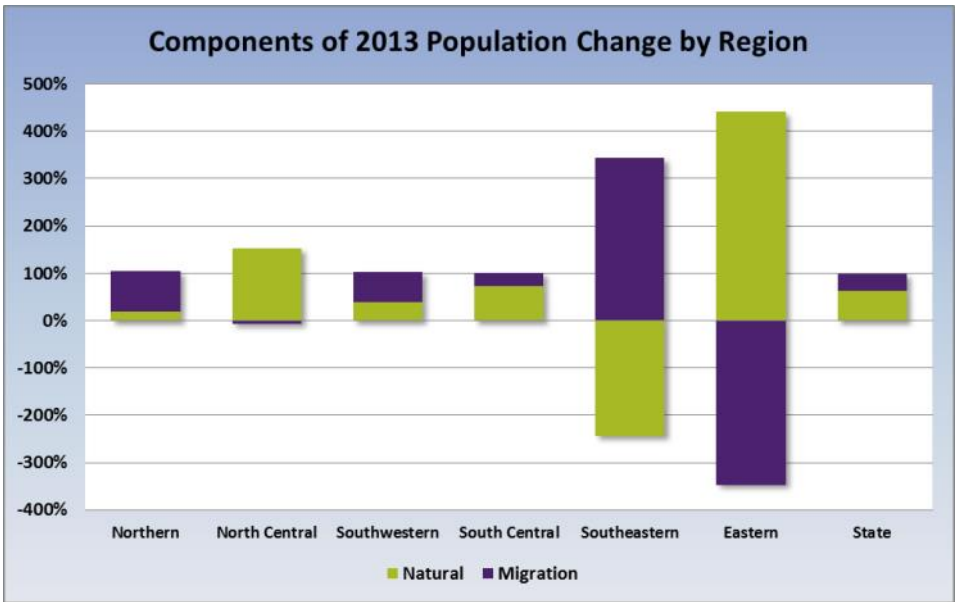
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Regionally, outmigration appeared linked to local layoffs and business closures although in some areas an increase in births helped offset the outmigration. Overall, the number of deaths statewide increased 9 percent, or nearly 1,000, between 2007 and 2013 while the number of births declined 9.5 percent, or by more than 2,000, indicating the aging of the state's population.

While the vast majority of migration to Idaho has been from other states, Ada County, the state's largest, typically draws the most international migrants. In 2013 the number of international migrants was nearly 100 higher than in 2007. Twin Falls County also saw an increase in international migrants, enough to exceed the number recorded in Canyon County. Canyon and Minidoka counties, both with heavy concentrations of Hispanics – many involved in agriculture – recorded declines in international migration from 2007 to 2013. So did Bonneville, Blaine, Jerome, Latah, Bannock and Bingham counties. Elmore, Kootenai and Gem counties all saw an increase.



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau



Source: Population Estimates Program, U.S. Census Bureau

The Pew Research Center’s Hispanic Trends Project reported the amount of money being earned in the United States and sent back to family members in Mexico declined 29 percent to \$22 billion from 2006 to 2013. In other Latin American countries these so-called remittances returned to prerecession levels.

During the recession, immigration from Mexico reportedly declined for any number of reasons including adverse economic conditions

10 Counties with Highest International Migration			
2013		2007	
County	Net Migration	County	Net Migration
Ada	766	Ada	671
Twin Falls	202	Canyon	354
Elmore	95	Twin Falls	171
Canyon	87	Bonneville	96
Bonneville	53	Blaine	88
Blaine	51	Jerome	69
Kootenai	44	Latah	65
Bannock	41	Minidoka	65
Latah	35	Bannock	63
Gem	25	Bingham	63

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

and increased border enforcement, impacting counties like Canyon, Blaine and Jerome, where the Hispanic population is over 20 percent, twice or more the statewide percentage. Colleges and universities like those in Bannock and Latah counties may also see declines in international enrollment.

Components of Population by County July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2013								
Idaho	Total Population	Annual Change	Natural Increase				Net Migration	
			Births	Deaths	Total		Internat'l	Domestic
	1,612,136	16,546	10,937	22,187	11,250	6,142	1,563	4,579
Benewah	9,044	-102	6	106	100	-102	4	-106
Bonner	40,699	243	6	369	363	194	11	183
Boundary	10,853	21	12	129	117	20	5	15
Kootenai	144,265	1987	450	1661	1211	1655	44	1611
Shoshone	12,690	-14	-63	110	173	58	7	51
Northern	217,551	2135	411	2375	1964	1825	71	1754
Clearwater	8,577	-6	-37	61	98	32	4	28
Idaho	16,116	-211	0	158	158	-172	-4	-168
Latah	38,078	23	233	435	202	-174	35	-209
Lewis	3,902	8	16	43	27	1	0	1
Nez Perce	39,915	335	17	462	445	304	23	281
North Central	106,588	149	229	1,159	930	-9	58	-67
Ada	416,464	7611	2720	5162	2442	5224	766	4458
Adams	3,828	-86	4	24	20	-55	0	-55
Boise	6,795	-30	-9	35	44	-13	11	-24
Canyon	198,871	5083	1736	3000	1264	3313	87	3226
Elmore	26,170	-122	306	463	157	-417	95	-512
Gem	16,686	-12	13	184	171	-31	25	-56
Owyhee	11,472	14	61	145	84	-55	10	-65
Payette	22,610	-66	128	315	187	-187	2	-189
Valley	9,606	82	33	85	52	58	0	58
Washington	9,944	-97	5	91	86	-95	-4	-91
Southwestern	722,446	12,377	4,997	9,504	4,507	7,742	992	6,750
Blaine	21,329	188	129	212	83	52	51	1
Camas	1,042	-34	6	7	1	-41	0	-41
Cassia	23,331	76	226	398	172	-108	7	-115
Gooding	15,080	-128	74	186	112	-163	12	-175
Jerome	22,514	53	244	389	145	-182	17	-199
Lincoln	5,315	40	42	74	32	-5	3	-8
Minidoka	20,292	204	174	337	163	31	14	17
Twin Falls	79,957	1442	452	1156	704	943	202	741
South Central	188,860	1841	1347	2759	1412	527	306	221
Bannock	83,249	-434	668	1285	617	-1128	41	-1169
Bear Lake	5,943	39	13	70	57	30	1	29
Bingham	45,290	-176	400	706	306	-580	-12	-568
Caribou	6,808	30	11	83	72	34	5	29
Franklin	12,854	49	108	186	78	-62	2	-64
Oneida	4,275	42	21	49	28	21	0	21
Power	7,719	-83	72	130	58	-154	3	-157
Southeastern	166,138	-533	1293	2,509	1216	-1,839	40	-1,879
Bonneville	107,517	653	1155	1899	744	-536	53	-589
Butte	2,642	-96	15	30	15	-102	0	-102
Clark	867	-7	5	11	6	-7	3	-10
Custer	4,249	-91	10	37	27	-96	2	-98
Fremont	12,927	-53	104	193	89	-153	5	-158
Jefferson	26,914	215	382	505	123	-175	7	-182
Lemhi	7,712	-50	-18	65	83	-41	1	-42
Madison	37,450	-200	880	993	113	-1092	19	-1111
Teton	10,275	206	127	148	21	98	6	92
Eastern	210,553	577	2,660	3,881	1,221	-2,104	96	-2,200

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

<div> <div>Components of Population by County</div> <div>July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007</div> </div>								
	Total Population	Annual Change	Natural Increase				Net Migration	
			Births	Deaths	Total		Internat'l	Domestic
Idaho	1,499,402	35,524	14,198	24,518	10,320	21,837	2,268	19,569
Benewah	9,243	32	32	127	95	-	2	-2
Bonner	41,050	661	99	422	323	580	11	569
Boundary	10,872	259	53	147	94	213	-	213
Kootenai	134,442	3,722	792	1,753	961	3,008	42	2,966
Shoshone	12,838	-57	-14	136	150	-39	4	-43
Northern	208,445	4,617	962	2,585	1,623	3,762	59	3,703
Clearwater	8,231	-40	-10	76	86	-31	-	-31
Idaho	15,345	88	16	161	145	66	6	60
Latah	36,299	173	192	401	209	-23	65	-88
Lewis	3,581	-37	10	42	32	-44	1	-45
Nez Perce	38,932	384	55	467	412	358	20	338
North Central	102,388	568	263	1,147	884	326	92	234
Ada	373,406	11,762	3,630	5,794	2,164	8,301	671	7,630
Adams	3,546	66	16	40	24	59	2	57
Boise	7,571	109	21	64	43	94	4	90
Canyon	179,381	7,797	2,448	3,599	1,151	5,440	354	5,086
Elmore	28,856	475	365	514	149	116	26	90
Gem	16,496	198	67	246	179	139	23	116
Owyhee	10,835	82	90	178	88	-4	42	-46
Payette	22,751	610	172	345	173	438	17	421
Valley	8,945	272	50	115	65	233	4	229
Washington	10,147	56	25	139	114	33	34	-1
Southwestern	661,934	21,427	6,884	11,034	4,150	14,849	1,177	13,672
Blaine	21,560	149	219	298	79	-71	88	-159
Camas	1,102	35	15	17	2	21	1	20
Cassia	20,960	195	202	385	183	-6	49	-55
Gooding	14,250	75	109	238	129	-27	51	-78
Jerome	20,066	402	240	404	164	159	69	90
Lincoln	4,497	105	68	87	19	42	11	31
Minidoka	18,564	34	161	338	177	-127	65	-192
Twin Falls	73,058	1,811	562	1,225	663	1,289	171	1,118
South Central	174,057	2,806	1,576	2,992	1,416	1,280	505	775
Bannock	79,925	459	890	1,455	565	-430	63	-493
Bear Lake	5,863	-47	16	76	60	-59	1	-60
Bingham	43,466	377	544	816	272	-170	63	-233
Caribou	6,862	15	42	99	57	-26	3	-29
Franklin	12,203	173	138	219	81	35	23	12
Oneida	4,106	14	29	60	31	-13	1	-14
Power	7,684	11	99	142	43	-89	28	-117
Southeastern	160,109	1,002	1,758	2,867	1,109	-752	182	-934
Bonneville	96,545	3,012	1,296	1,942	646	1,735	96	1,639
Butte	2,771	27	27	41	14	2	3	-1
Clark	906	-1	18	19	1	-18	9	-27
Custer	4,166	58	7	43	36	53	1	52
Fremont	12,517	112	138	233	95	-19	37	-56
Jefferson	22,851	940	375	500	125	562	32	530
Lemhi	7,717	-28	-2	84	86	-29	6	-35
Madison	36,647	445	769	882	113	-327	32	-359
Teton	8,349	539	127	149	22	413	37	376
Eastern	192,469	5,104	2,755	3,893	1,138	2,372	253	2,119

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

In south central Idaho, anchored by Twin Falls County, there has been marked foreign investment by companies like Glanbia of Ireland, McCain

Foods of Canada and Frulact of Portugal while Canyon County is seeing investments from companies such as Sorrento Lactalis of Italy and Materne of France. These businesses combined with refugee centers located in Boise and Twin Falls foster international migration, increasing Idaho's diversity.

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IDAHO EXPERIENCES POST-RECESSION JOB GROWTH

Idaho's post-recession job growth gained steam during the past two years, with the recovery concentrated in the state's 11 metropolitan counties.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the state lost over 50,000 jobs from 2007 to 2010, two-thirds from the traditionally better-paying goods production sector. Idaho's 33 rural counties – those not part of a federally designated metropolitan statistical area – lost a slightly higher proportion of jobs than urban counties, but those same rural counties hung on to many more manufacturing jobs than metro areas.

In 2007 before the recession, Idaho's rural counties accounted for 31 percent of all jobs – about 203,000 – while the 11 urban counties accounted for the other 452,000.

By the time the recession ran its course in 2010, the state's rural counties held 186,000 jobs, or 30.8 percent of the statewide total, while the urban counties had 417,500.

Seven of every 10 urban jobs lost to the recession were in goods production while the split between goods production and services in the rural counties was about even.

Through 2013, the state recovered two-thirds of those lost jobs but not in the same sectors. Only about one of every four goods production jobs was recovered while three service-sector jobs were generated for every two that were lost. And while manufacturing has been a bright spot in recent years, economic recovery in rural Idaho has been slower overall.

Construction bore the brunt of the recession throughout the state. Urban counties lost 40 percent of the construction workforce – over 15,000 jobs – while rural counties lost 38 percent – nearly 6,000 jobs. That translated into \$767 million in lost wages statewide – \$586 million in the metro areas and \$180 million in rural Idaho.

And while economic recovery has slowly begun in Idaho's urban areas, the increase in construction jobs since 2010 has been just over 600 – all in urban counties while rural areas continued shedding jobs. Only a fraction of the lost wages had been regained in the metro areas.

In manufacturing, rural counties not only regained 2,100 jobs lost to the recession by 2013 but another hundred while urban areas recovered 3,700 of more than 11,000 manufacturing jobs lost.

Statewide all of the lost manufacturing wages were essentially recovered by 2013 but only because of growth in food manufacturing, primarily in south central Idaho. Twelve hundred manufacturing jobs have been generated in that region alone since 2010, with total manufacturing wages nearly \$100 million higher than in 2007 before the recession hit.

At the end of 2013, Idaho's 11 urban counties were still \$150 million short of their manufacturing payroll peak prior to the recession.

By 2013, over 34 percent of Idaho's goods production jobs were in rural areas, up from 31 percent in 2007 and total payroll reflects that shift. Since the bottom of the recession in 2010, total goods production wages in the rural counties have risen 14 percent while the increase in the metro areas was under 10 percent.

A significant growth in service sector jobs has been concentrated in the 11 metropolitan counties, where all 3,800 leisure and hospitality jobs had been recovered along with 600 more, and both trade and financial services were nearly back to prerecession levels.

In contrast, Idaho's rural counties were still well below half in recovering service sector jobs except in transportation, which was several hundred jobs ahead of its prerecession peak.

In total wages, service sector payrolls in rural Idaho have risen 5.8 percent since 2010 while the increase in urban counties was 8.3 percent.

Overall, the metro counties saw total wages decline 6.4 percent during the recession while the loss in the rural parts of the state was just four-tenths of a percent.

Total Jobs By Sector						
	2007		2010		2013*	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Total Nonfarm	452,100	202,800	417,500	186,100	444,700	193,600
Total Private	379,500	158,700	343,300	141,700	369,400	150,500
Goods Producing	84,600	38,100	58,400	29,500	64,900	32,600
Service (Inc. Gov't)	367,400	164,800	359,200	156,500	379,900	160,900
Private Service	294,900	120,600	284,800	112,300	304,400	118,000
Mining, Logging, Construction	38,100	18,300	22,900	11,900	25,400	12,300
Manufacturing	46,500	19,800	35,400	17,800	39,800	20,000
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	92,100	40,900	84,400	37,100	90,700	38,500
Wholesale Trade	20,000	8,000	18,300	7,700	20,700	8,000
Retail Trade	58,200	25,200	52,700	22,100	56,500	22,400
Transportation, Warehouse, Utilities	14,000	7,600	13,300	7,400	13,700	7,900
Information	8,200	2,700	7,200	2,400	6,900	2,400
Financial Activities	24,500	7,900	22,000	7,200	24,200	6,800
Professional, Business Services	58,700	23,800	53,800	20,200	55,800	21,200
Education, Health Services	53,500	20,500	62,200	21,600	66,800	24,200
Leisure, Hospitality	44,200	19,100	40,400	17,600	44,800	18,200
Other Services	13,800	5,600	14,800	6,300	15,500	6,400
Total Gov't	72,600	44,200	74,100	44,500	75,500	42,900
Federal Gov't	8,000	4,900	8,700	5,000	8,100	4,300
State Gov't	21,000	8,300	20,400	8,100	21,000	8,000
Local Gov't	43,700	30,900	45,100	31,300	46,200	30,900

* Covers 12 months from October 2012 to September 2013

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

Total Wages				
Urban	2007		2010	2013*
	All Jobs	\$15,538,100,408	\$14,543,448,612	\$15,800,765,934
	Goods Production	\$4,096,081,064	\$3,155,370,372	\$3,464,766,637
	Services (Inc. Gov't)	\$11,442,019,344	\$11,388,078,240	\$12,335,999,297
Rural	2007		2010	2013*
	All Jobs	\$6,623,548,740	\$6,593,921,877	\$7,113,776,647
	Goods Production	\$1,833,281,488	\$1,662,207,251	\$1,895,587,138
	Services (Inc. Gov't)	\$4,790,267,252	\$4,931,714,626	\$5,218,189,509

* Covers 12 months from October 2012 to September 2013

Source: Idaho Department of Labor

The recovery has more than restored all the lost wages statewide, but total wages in 2013 were just 1.7 percent higher than the prerecession peak in the urban counties while they were over 7 percent higher in rural Idaho.

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IDAHO LEADS RESEARCH TO IDENTIFY HIGH-TECH TAXONOMY

New national research, led by the Idaho Department of Labor, has evolved into a new industrial taxonomy for high technology jobs. The research, conducted for the Workforce Information Council^[1], involved using data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Quarterly Workforce Indicators to compare states across several different metrics. Idaho’s performance was mixed.

The new high-tech industry taxonomy is based on concentrations of occupations from two subdomains of the Standard Occupation Classification Policy Committee’s STEM occupation list – life and physical science, mathematics and information and engineering and health. All four-digit NAICS industries that had over 2.5 times the national average concentration of either of these occupation groups were defined as high-tech. The two subdomains were kept separate in the analysis and led to two different high-tech industry groups – STEM Core and STEM Health Care.

Idaho did not fare well in many of the metrics for either high-tech group, but there were a few where the state stood out.

STEM Core: Percent of Total*		
	Percent	Rank
Washington	3.4%	9
Oregon	1.2%	26
Utah	1.1%	28
Idaho	0.4%	38
Nevada	0.4%	39
Montana	0.2%	47
Wyoming	0.2%	50

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: National and State Comparisons

*Only States with Available Data

STEM Core: Relative Employment		
	Percent	Rank
Washington	12.8%	2
Utah	9.6%	11
Average*	8.4%	-
Oregon	7.5%	23
Idaho	7.4%	25
Wyoming	6.6%	33
Montana	5.5%	43
Nevada	4.0%	50

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*

*Only States with Available Data

STEM CORE

Idaho made up 0.4 percent of all the STEM Core employment, ranking 38th among the states for which data were available, and not surprising considering the small population. Among the surrounding states, Washington ranked ninth at 3.4 percent, Oregon 26th at 1.2 percent and Utah 28th at 1.1 percent. Wyoming landed at the bottom of the list with only 0.2 of a percent of STEM Core employment.

For total STEM Core employment, Washington remained the highest among the surrounding states, ranking second nationally at 12.8 percent of total state employment behind Washington, D.C. Utah ranked 11th with 9.6 percent of its employment in the STEM Core industries. All other regional states fell below the average of 8.4 percent. Idaho ranked 25th at 7.4 percent.

STEM Core employment was strongly affected by the recession, causing the average employment to decline 0.3 percent between 2002 and 2002. All but two states surrounding Idaho bucked the trend and recorded employment growth in STEM Core industries. Utah led the way with a 29 percent increase in payrolls followed by Wyoming at 18.8 percent, Washington at 17.9 percent and Montana with 15.5 percent. These growth rates were some of the best among the states with available data and landed all four states in the top 10 nationally. Nevada and Idaho both lost more than the national average – Nevada dropping 5.9 percent and Idaho 6.4 percent.

STEM Core earnings per worker varied among the states, but Washington topped the region at over \$107,000, high enough to rank third nationally. All other states in the region came in below the average of \$92,200. Idaho ranked 39th with earnings per worker of \$71,424.

STEM Core: Employment Change 2002-2012		
	Percent	Rank
Utah	29.0%	3
Wyoming	18.8%	4
Washington	17.9%	5
Montana	15.5%	6
Oregon	1.4%	20
Average*	-0.3%	-
Nevada	-5.9%	32
Idaho	-6.4%	34

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*
*Only States with Available Data

STEM Core: Earnings per Worker		
	EPW	Rank
Washington	\$107,202	3
Average*	\$92,233	-
Oregon	\$87,865	16
Wyoming	\$78,598	24
Nevada	\$75,933	28
Utah	\$72,276	38
Idaho	\$71,424	39
Montana	\$70,868	41

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*
*Only States with Available Data

STEM Core: Relative Earnings per Worker		
	EPW	Rank
Washington	205.4%	1
Oregon	198.4%	5
Idaho	196.1%	7
Montana	191.4%	10
Average*	188.0%	-
Wyoming	174.1%	33
Utah	173.0%	34
Nevada	172.8%	35

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*
*Only States with Available Data

Idaho fared much better when comparing STEM Core earnings to average earnings for all jobs. Washington still ranked the highest, leading the nation with STEM Core earnings 205.4 percent higher than Washington’s all industry average earnings per worker. Oregon ranked fifth at 198.4 percent, and Idaho was seventh at 196.1 percent, well above the national average of 188 percent.

Idaho’s percentage of national STEM Health Care employment ranked similarly to STEM Core employment – half a percent to place 40th. Nevada had slightly more employment in these industries than Idaho. Washington still led the region at 2 percent, ranking 18th nationally.

STEM Health Care: Percent of Total*		
	Percent	Rank
Washington	2.0%	18
Oregon	1.1%	28
Utah	0.8%	33
Nevada	0.6%	37
Idaho	0.5%	40
Montana	0.3%	43
Wyoming	0.2%	50

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: National and State Comparisons

*Only States with Available Data

STEM Health Care: Relative Employment		
	Percent	Rank
Montana	12.1%	27
Average*	12.0%	-
Idaho	11.6%	33
Washington	10.5%	41
Oregon	10.3%	43
Utah	9.8%	46
Wyoming	9.3%	48
Nevada	8.3%	50

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*

*Only States with Available Data

In terms of relative employment, most of the states in the region ranked in the bottom 10 of the states. Montana, the only state with a higher concentration of STEM Health Care employment than the average, was barely above the average to rank 27th. Idaho follows next with 11.6 percent of its employment in STEM Health Care industries, ranking 33rd. All the other regional states rank in the bottom ten spots.

In contrast to STEM Core industry employment, STEM Health Care employment had a good decade for growth. All states with data posted increases between 2002 and 2012. Idaho did quite well with payrolls expanding 33.4 percent to rank sixth nationally. Only Utah was ahead of Idaho in the region with 35.5 percent growth. Oregon, Montana and Washington were the only regional states to be below the national average of 24.8 percent, but all ranked in the top half of states.

STEM Health Care: Employment Change 2002-2012		
	Percent	Rank
Utah	35.5%	5
Idaho	33.4%	6
Nevada	29.5%	7
Wyoming	25.9%	9
Average*	24.8%	-
Oregon	24.6%	12
Montana	22.0%	15
Washington	20.4%	20

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*

*Only States with Available Data

Unfortunately Idaho did not fare as well in earnings per worker. At \$42,241, Idaho ranked last among states. Utah and Montana were not far ahead at 46th and 40th. Nevada, which did not rank well on many metrics, topped the region in earnings per worker for STEM Health Care at \$57,358 to rank third nationally. Washington and Oregon joined Nevada in the top 10 nationally, the only states in the region above the average.

STEM Health Care: Earnings per Worker		
	EPW	Rank
Nevada	\$57,358	3
Washington	\$55,496	8
Oregon	\$54,628	9
Average*	\$51,305	-
Wyoming	\$50,791	19
Montana	\$45,979	40
Utah	\$44,173	46
Idaho	\$42,241	50

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*
 *Only States with Available Data

STEM Health Care: Relative Earnings per Worker		
	EPW	Rank
Nevada	130.5%	3
Montana	124.2%	7
Oregon	123.3%	8
Idaho	116.0%	14
Wyoming	112.5%	21
Washington	106.4%	34
Utah	105.8%	35
Average*	104.6%	-

Source: The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: *National and State Comparisons*
 *Only States with Available Data

Idaho improved substantially when looking at relative earnings per worker. At 116 percent, Idaho ranked 14th overall. Nevada, Montana and Oregon all came in above Idaho to land in the top 10. While all states in the region come in above the average of 104.6 percent, this high-tech group pays notably less than STEM Core industries.

For a full list of how all the states ranked plus a detailed look at the methodology used and how the nation overall has fared see “The High-Tech Industrial and Occupational Cluster: National and State Comparisons” posted on the Workforce Information Council’s website <http://www.workforceinfocouncil.org/#fifth>.

[\[1\] http://www.workforceinfocouncil.org/Documents/High%20Tech%20Suite%20reduced.pdf](http://www.workforceinfocouncil.org/Documents/High%20Tech%20Suite%20reduced.pdf)
Questions? Contact Bob Uhlenkott, Research & Analysis Bureau Chief at bob.uhlenkott@labor.idaho.gov

GROWING OCCUPATIONS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES TO NEW IDAHO GRADS

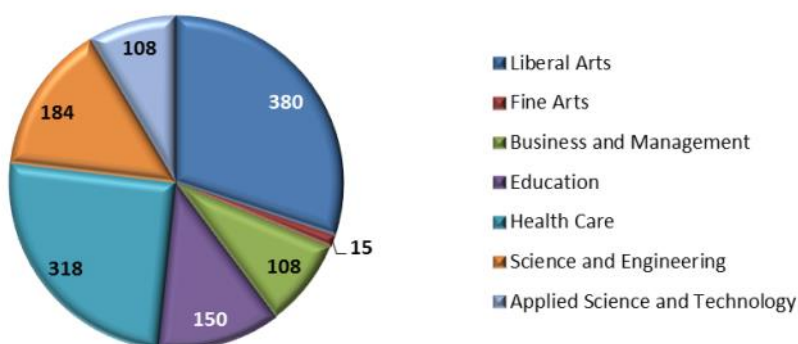
Thousands of collegians have received their degrees and are starting – or hoping to start – careers for which they have spent four or more years studying. In the past year 1,248 students graduated from Idaho State University, many entering an economy showing signs of growth.

The tight job market graduates experienced during the past several years has loosened up.

The 318 graduates in health sciences should find an abundant job market in Idaho.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, Idaho State graduated 103 students with bachelor’s degrees in nursing. Registered nursing is the top job

2014 Idaho State University Bachelor's Degrees by Subject Area



Source: Estimates by the Idaho State University, Office of the Registrar

statewide in the Idaho Department of Labor 2010 – 2020 Long-Term Occupational Projections. Those projections show 675 annual openings for registered nurses around the state.

The school's 32 graduates in dental hygiene should also have little difficulty finding work, according to the projections. Dental hygienists, which rank fourth on the department's list of the best paying jobs with the highest demand and largest number of openings, will average 61 openings a year between 2010 and 2020.

Overall there is high demand for health care-related occupations in Idaho. It is likely Idaho State's graduates in that field will be in demand. Overall Idaho jobs in health care should increase 33 percent between 2010 and 2020.

Degree holders in the sciences and engineering may also find a welcoming job market. The school's 21 mechanical engineering graduates may find work in an annual estimate of 58 jobs in mechanical engineering as projected through 2020.

A specialty area for Idaho State University's College of Science and Engineering is nuclear engineering. The school's relationship with the Idaho National Laboratory and on-campus research facilities has created a program whose graduates are in high demand worldwide.

There were nine graduates in this demanding field, and the long-term projections put openings at an average of 17 a year.

Overall, there are estimated to be 362 openings a year for engineers in all the various disciplines through 2020. Total job growth is estimated at over 19 percent through the decade.

The anticipated occupational growth in the sciences is not as strong. Jobs in the life sciences should increase 7.5 percent by 2020 while growth in the physical sciences is projected at just under 12 percent.

Graduates of the College of Business at ISU are experiencing an improved job market as more and more companies expand during the economic recovery. Two areas expected to see strong growth through 2020 are accountants and auditors at 15.3 percent and human resource managers at 23.9 percent. Business-related job opportunities overall are expected to grow by more than 11 percent.

New teachers graduating from the College of Education should also find opportunities over the next several years. Openings for primary, secondary and special education teachers should increase over 14 percent by the end of the decade.

But there are some occupations requiring four-year degrees that are not expanding.

Graduates with degrees in English may find limited job opportunities in Idaho. For example the demand for proofreaders is expected to decline 6 percent by 2020, and openings for editors will increase just 3.5 percent.

There should be opportunities for writers and authors, where demand by decade's end should be up 13 percent, and technical writers, whose job opportunities should increase 21 percent.

Jobs anchored in the fine arts will likely see only tepid growth. For fine artists themselves, annual openings are estimated at just three. Musicians and singers will be competing for only 21 openings a year. Often jobs like these are only part time and other employment is needed to supplement income.

Those trained in graphic design, on the other hand, can expect an average of 154 openings a year with overall growth estimated at more than 12 percent through 2020.

Still a college degree is an important asset for any job seeker. Even during the recession the unemployment rate for college graduates never rose much over 5 percent nationally. And income potential is greatly enhanced by a degree. In Idaho the median wage in 2013 for those with just a high school diploma or GED was \$16.25 per hour. Those with a college degree were - on average - earning \$26.43 per hour.

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Area and County Developments

NORTHERN IDAHO

Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- Idaho Forest Group, operator of five mills in northern Idaho, is expanding into cross-laminated timber – a super-strong engineered wood called CLT. The expansion is a partnership with the Johann Offner Group, a global manufacturing company headquartered in Wolfsberg, Austria. Idaho Forest Group will be the first in the United States to sell CLT, which is layers of lumber oriented at right angles to one another and glued together to form rigid panels with exceptional strength and stability. Together, the two family-owned companies will market and distribute CLT building systems in the U.S. as soon as this year. Idaho Forest Group will initially import CLT with an eye toward manufacturing it within three years.
- North Idaho College trustees accepted the college administration's proposal to fill a budget shortfall of \$352,000 for fiscal year 2015 by raising tuition \$2 per credit hour for Kootenai County students and \$6 per credit hour for out-of-district students. Local students taking 12 credits will now pay \$1,511 per semester, a 1.6 percent increase.
- New Jersey Mining Co. of Coeur d'Alene, which owns the New Jersey Mill in Kellogg, bought 13 patented mining claims covering 220 acres near Elk City from Vancouver, B.C.-based Premium Exploration Inc., for \$425,000. PennStarter, a newly formed division of Coeur d'Alene-based stock brokerage Pennaluna & Co., had raised more than \$1 million for New Jersey Mining through its online equity funding portal launched last November so people could invest mainly in startup companies. New Jersey Mining was one of three companies that PennStarter initially included on the website. PennStarter specializes in the mining and natural resources industry.
- Avista Corp. sponsors the Spokane Valley Tech's Entrepreneurship Program in Washington – a collaboration with the Central Valley, East Valley, Freeman and West Valley school districts. The program offers students technical skills and experience in growing industries with a focus on career and college readiness. The Entrepreneurship Program began during the 2013-14 school year. Avista started the Centers for Entrepreneurship Network in 2007 with \$100,000 in seed money. The funds will be used by Spokane Community College to develop a program to help students prepare for and launch a business. It was so successful the curriculum was licensed and Avista has started other centers at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene, Rogue Community College in Medford, Ore., and Walla Walla Community College in Clarkston.

- Avista Corp. will sell subsidiary Ecova for \$335 million to Cofely USA, a subsidiary of GDF SUEZ, a French multinational electric utility company. The deal closes in July. Ecova provides management services for energy use.
- Core-Mark International Inc. is expanding its Spokane Valley distribution center with a \$5 million, 50,000-square-foot addition. Core-Mark is a San Francisco-based general merchandise distributor of food, beverages and sundries to 29,000 retailers including convenience, drug, grocery and specialty stores. Construction is expected to start in July and end in November.
- Canada-based design company Stantec has acquired USKH Inc., an Anchorage-based architectural and engineering firm with a Spokane office staffed by 22 including eight engineers and four architects. USKH, with a total payroll of 130, has four offices in Alaska, two in Washington state and one in Billings, Montana. Stantec has 13,000 employees in more than 200 locations in North America, including 6,000 employees in 140 offices in the United States.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BENEWAH COUNTY

- Circling Raven Golf Club in Worley has garnered the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for a second straight year. The award honors hospitality entities that consistently receive outstanding traveler reviews on TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel website. Establishments qualifying for the distinction are selected based on overall rating, volume of reviews over the previous year and popularity on the site.

BONNER COUNTY

- Bonner General Hospital has renamed itself Bonner General Health to reflect the hospital's comprehensive role in local health care from preventative care to emergency services to education.
- West Bonner County School District's \$3 million one-year supplemental levy passed.
- Solar Roadways of Sagle surpassed its fundraising goal. The northern Idaho start-up transforms roads, sidewalks and parking lots into solar surfaces. Scott and Julie Brusaw raised more than \$1.4 million from more than 33,000 contributors to move the couple's product toward manufacturing. With a \$750,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administration, the Brusaws built a small parking pad next to their workshop using 108 of the panels. The pad remained free of snow and ice through the winter. The city of Sandpoint has applied for a federal grant to use the technology in a test project downtown, and the Brusaws hope to build a small manufacturing plant in Sandpoint within the year.



KOOTENAI COUNTY

- Center Partners has been acquired by Qualfon Inc., a global provider of call center and business process outsourcing services. Qualfon operates in

the Philippines, Guyana, Mexico, China and the United States, employing 10,000 people and serving an international base of clients. Center Partners has offices in Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls and Liberty Lake as well as southern Idaho and Colorado. In April, Center Partners announced it was adding more than 400 jobs in Spokane and Coeur d'Alene.

- BC Engineers Inc., a Hayden structural engineering company, has purchased the assets of Northwest Roof Consultants Inc. of Coeur d'Alene and created a roof consulting division. BC Engineers is licensed in Idaho, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, California, Nevada and Michigan.

SHOSHONE COUNTY

- Federal officials plan to spend \$38 million in northern Idaho's Coeur d'Alene River Basin this summer cleaning up toxic pollution left from a century of mining. Up to 125 residential and commercial properties will be cleaned up and more than 17 miles of paved roads in eight upper basin communities will be repaired or replaced. Work will also include water treatment projects and the construction of multiple mine-waste repositories. Most of the work this year is being financed with settlements made by Asarco and Hecla Mining Co.

OPENINGS

- Handy Pros Construction in Sandpoint
- Lake City Cakes in Dalton Gardens
- Sweet Pickins, a home decor, gifts and crafts store, in Hayden
- Subway in Coeur d'Alene
- Hayden Corner Store in Hayden
- Good Samaritan Thrift in Coeur d'Alene
- Mattress Firm in Coeur d'Alene
- Coeur d'Alene Souvenir and Sundry in Coeur d'Alene
- Theodore's Restaurant in Coeur d'Alene in the Roosevelt Bed & Breakfast

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NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis and Nez Perce counties

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Clearwater Economic Development Association was awarded an \$80,000 U. S. Department of Agriculture grant to learn about workforce needs and business development assistance required by the "metal supercluster" – ammunition and firearms makers, jet boat builders and equipment manufacturers and local machine shops. Raymond Dixon at the University of Idaho's Department of Curriculum and Instruction is conducting six workshops to analyze the training needed for key occupations in the metal supercluster. He will develop curriculum that Lewis-Clark State College and local school districts can use to teach the required skills. In early April, local manufacturing companies identified the five most critical jobs – machinists, fabricators, electronic technicians, machine technicians and quality assurance personnel. The economic devel-

opment association is meeting with local manufacturers and resource providers to assess how well current business development services align with business needs. Once the survey is compiled, the association will work with resource providers to develop a strategy for improving services.

NEZ PERCE TRIBE

- The Nez Perce Tribe recently completed expansion of its Qem'es (Camas) Express convenience store near Winchester on U.S. Highway 95. The expansion also included making it a public rest area, one of three partnerships between the Idaho Transportation Department and others to improve services for drivers. The new rest area is roughly halfway between the rest area six miles south of Riggins and the one near the border of Latah and Benewah counties. The tribe, which also operates a convenience store next to its casino near Lewiston, plans other convenience stores in the next few years.
- The Nez Perce Tribe received a \$200,000 grant to study bighorn sheep in the Salmon River canyon east of Riggins for two more years. The study, which began five years ago, prompted federal land management agencies to change domestic sheep grazing allotments to protect wild bighorns from disease carried by domestic sheep. The Payette National Forest reduced domestic sheep grazing by 70 percent, and a draft plan from the Bureau of Land Management proposes to close three of its four domestic sheep grazing allotments in the Riggins area.
- The Environmental Protection Agency recently awarded almost \$200,000 to the Nez Perce Tribe for Brownfields work on a former mill site on U.S. Highway 12 a mile east of Orofino. Brownfields are sites where redevelopment is complicated by the presence of a hazardous substance – in this case creosote, lead and other pollutants. The tribe will use the grant to clean up and redevelop the 39-acre property. The Richardson Sawmill operated in the area from 1943 until 1982. Over the years, the land also contained a wood treatment plant, an asphalt batch plant, fireworks stands and a trap shooting range. It also contains an underground fuel storage tank. The tribe plans to eventually use the site – the last flat, buildable site along the river – for one of its enterprises – most likely a recreational area with a convenience store and tackle shop, cabin rentals and a boat ramp. Another possibility is a waste-to-energy plant.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

CLEARWATER COUNTY

- The Rex Theatre has a new lease on life since the city of Orofino received a USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to install equipment to run the new digital prints. In the last year, film distribution companies stopped sending out film reels and now send all films digitally. The 98-year-old theater was preparing to close because the equipment was too expensive. Now the downtown landmark will remain open, allowing residents to see films locally. Loren Whitten-Kaboth, director of the Clearwater County Economic Development Council, was responsible for finding the solution. The theater's owner will provide half the money needed to purchase the new equipment while the grant will cover the rest.

- In their last few weeks at the National Guard's Idaho Youth Challenge Academy in Pierce, cadets practiced interviewing with local employers and learned other vital life skills. Cadets also volunteer for community projects, such as helping the Pierce Gem Team pick up litter during its May community cleanup. After the first class of 78 students graduated June 21 they entered a 12-month post-residential program in their hometowns where they will work with a mentor to reach their goals. The Youth Challenge Academy is free for Idaho residents. Applications for the second session, which begins in July, are being accepted online at www.idyouthchallenge.com.
- Junior high students in Orofino attended a health career fair in May where a variety of health care professionals including doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, optometrists and laboratory technicians discussed their jobs. The students also visited 12 medical facilities. Seventh-graders continued to explore careers on the [Idaho Career Information System](#) website, creating informational posters about different specialties.

IDAHO AND LEWIS COUNTIES

- The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests celebrated the opening of a new supervisor's office in Kamiah May 14. Over the past eight years, the Forest Service's budget has declined 25 percent, dictating consolidation of the two forests and eventual closures of the old headquarters in Orofino and Grangeville. By combining forests, the agency eliminated 81 staff positions. "At one time we had nearly 600 employees between the two forests," Supervisor Rick Brazell said. "Now we are down to 325 permanent employees and around 200 seasonals, which means we have put more focus on doing the things that are crucial for the 23 towns and communities that surround our forest." Currently, 48 employees work in Kamiah. That number will grow to 73 as the Orofino and Grangeville headquarters close when their leases run out.
- Idaho County voters approved all levy and bond proposals in the May primary election. Voters again gave the nod to a one-year \$2.7 million supplemental levy for the Mountain View School District in Grangeville. Salmon River Joint School District 243 in Riggins received approval for a \$545,000 levy. Patrons of the Cottonwood School District approved a \$350,000 maintenance-of-operations levy that was nearly 10 percent lower than last year's. Voters in Stites approved a \$750,000 sewer revenue bond to fix infiltration problems caused by deteriorating lines and leaky manhole covers. White Bird residents favored a \$2.5 million sewer revenue bond to improve their wastewater system.
- New Jersey Mining Co. in Coeur d'Alene bought 13 patented mining claims on 220 acres near Elk City from Canadian Premium Exploration Inc. in May. New Jersey Mining refers to the claims as the Eastern Star Project. It includes the site of the Shearer/Bennett lumber mill that operated from 1958 until it was dismantled in 2006. The company said the site is well-suited for mining infrastructure and has industrial water rights and highway access. Modern exploration in the district by other companies focused on near-surface bulk tonnage potential while smaller-scale, high-grade gold deposits largely have been ignored, New Jersey Mining said in

a press release. The area lies within trucking distance of the company's mill in Kellogg. According to the press release, the Eastern Star Project fits the company's near-term objectives of evaluating high-grade systems for production potential and its longer-term vision of "possibly building a new mill capable of servicing an emerging mining district as local operations are developed." Elk City residents are eager to see what happens after losing more than 100 jobs when the Bennett mill closed. Elk City was established in 1861 when gold was discovered. By 1863, nearly a million dollars in gold had been washed from its stream beds, and up to 10,000 people lived in Elk City, but the boom soon went bust. Although mining never played a major role again, over the next century the district supported more than 20 mines including the Eastern Star as well as placer dredging operations.

- Cloninger's Hells Canyon Marketplace, the largest grocery store in Riggins, recently underwent a major facelift and interior renovations. It also found a new distributor as it deals with a familiar problem. Riggins – 153 miles northwest of Boise and 213 miles southeast of Spokane – "is at the far end of distribution and shipping districts," the company said in a statement. "Businesses to the north don't want to drive that last leg to Riggins and the same with businesses to the south. Cloninger's found a distributor willing to come to Riggins that offers up to three times the amount of products."
- Construction began in June on the new Woodside satellite fire station near Winchester after the new Craigmont fire station was completed. Schacher Construction of Grangeville, the main contractor for the Craigmont station, won the contract for the \$130,000 satellite fire station. Both stations are partially funded by a \$350,000 Idaho Community Development Block Grant. The city of Craigmont and the Winchester Rural Fire District worked together on the project. The larger station in Craigmont will be the training center, storage facility and house city and some rural trucks and emergency medical services. The Woodside satellite station will house trucks and have a water source.
- The CHS Primeland grain elevator in Grangeville recently completed a large remodel that will allow it to serve customers more quickly. Haskins Co. of Spokane, the contractor, installed a new 21-foot diameter metal composite grain distributor with approximately 20 trunks that will allow the facility to handle product nearly six times faster – about 20,000 bushels an hour instead of 3,500. Products handled by the Grangeville elevator include soft white wheat, dark northern spring wheat, hard red wheat, malt barley, feed barley, canola and oats. A division of the Fortune 100 company, CHS Cooperatives, CHS Primeland is owned and managed by its members, handling services from agronomy to grain, fertilizer and chemicals. The cooperative employs over 200 at its 19 facilities located from Grangeville to Spokane. Although the Primeland cooperative has been part of CHS Inc. since 1995, it just added the CHS to its name this year.

LATAH COUNTY

- Gritman Medical Center in Moscow broke ground in May on a new community clinic in Potlatch that will replace the much smaller space it occupied for the past 20 years. Sprenger Construction of Moscow is building the clinic with three exam rooms, a procedure room, ample parking and improved access for those with disabilities. The clinic, representing the hospital's \$750,000 investment in the community of 800, should open in November.
- The University of Idaho plans to start a \$19.5 million renovation of the College of Education building in July. Built in 1968, the structure contains asbestos in the walls and ceilings, and it is expensive to maintain. It also does not accommodate today's multifaceted methods of teaching and learning. After renovation, it will contain seminar rooms equipped with technology for distance learning and furniture designed to create collaborative spaces for students to work in groups. Until construction is finished in August 2016, the college's 60 employees will work in five different locations on campus.
- University of Idaho undergraduate students will receive opportunities to conduct real-world research under a \$1.2 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The five-year grant is designed to attract more students to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and track them to see if they go into those disciplines. A select number of university freshmen and sophomore students will be part of a new curriculum where they will research water quality effects on organisms and the environment. The university also is conducting a five-year study into attracting more students into the four so-called STEM fields under a \$1 million grant from the Micron Foundation.
- Voters in the Bovill and Deary areas renewed for another year a \$740,000 supplemental levy for the Whitepine Joint School District. The levy will amount to \$4.18 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- The Troy School District also received voter approval for its one-year \$995,000 supplemental levy, which was \$11,000 lower than last year's. The levy will help cover salaries for faculty and staff throughout the district, provide \$25,000 toward a new school bus for the upcoming school year and pay for some safety improvements at the schools.

NEZ PERCE AND ASOTIN, WASH., COUNTIES

- Seekins Precision celebrated the grand opening of its new factory near the Lewiston airport in May. The business began 10 years ago in a garage, and then moved to the Port of Lewiston's business incubator four years later. The company and its 25 employees has now outgrown the incubator. In the beginning, Seekins made scope rings but now produces AR-15 rifles and a full line of assault rifle parts. Its new 25,000-square-foot building represents a \$4 million investment into the community.
- Construction is underway in the Port of Clarkston's business district. Walgreens is building a store and Sleep Country U.S.A. will open in late August. The parking lot between Basalt Cellars winery and River Port Brewing Co. was recently paved.

- Lewis-Clark State College and Lewiston hosted the NAIA World Series for the 23rd time this May. Ten of the best college baseball teams throughout the U.S. play in the weeklong, double-elimination tournament for National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics title. The World Series first came to Lewiston in 1984, left in 1991 and returned in 2000. About 1,700 volunteers work as ticket sellers, food preparers, ushers and parking attendants. To keep the series, the college made several major improvements to Harris Field. The athletic director also hopes to see the playing field resurfaced, a new video board and the aging grandstand behind home plate replaced over the next couple of years. The estimated cost of the projects is around \$1.1 million.
- The Disability Action Center moved into its new location in downtown Lewiston this spring. The Center's new office is twice as large as its old office, providing more space for workshops. The center was established in 1993 in Moscow as a nonprofit advocating for accessibility for people with disabilities and working to help them live independently. It employs about 100 people at the three offices.
- Horizon Air flights will not be interrupted this summer when one of two runways at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport is resurfaced. Since the runway will be shorter from July 14 through 28, Horizon will have lower weight limits. The Bombardier Q400 turboprops that Horizon Air uses have 76 seats. During the runway closure, departing flights will carry a maximum of 66 passengers and arriving aircraft will be capped at 70 passengers. The other commercial passenger airline serving Lewiston, SkyWest Airlines, has suspended its flights during the construction because its aircraft needs the longer runway. Other types of airport traffic – cargo, corporate, medical, agricultural, recreational and military – should experience little change. Crews will resurface the 6,512-foot-long, 150-foot-wide runway, which was last updated 10 years ago. The airport's other runway is 5,000 feet long and 100 feet wide, but 355 feet of it will be closed when the longer runway is offline because of its proximity to the work.
- After voters rejected a \$499,000 supplemental levy on May 20, the Lapwai School District increased its cost-cutting efforts. While most school districts in north central Idaho run supplemental levies every year, this was the first levy proposed by the Lapwai district since 2009. Federal aid to offset the impact of a large tax-exempt property base is about one-third of the district's operating budget. Sequestration has reduced that aid by \$145,000 since the 2009-2010 school year. Before the election, the district decided to move its offices from a building owned by the Nez Perce Tribe to a smaller space at Lapwai High School. That's expected to save about \$11,000 a year in water, sewer, garbage service, electricity and insurance.

OPENINGS

- Lonnie's Corner Deli, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner on Main Street in White Bird.
- Snap Fitness, a gym on 21st Street in Lewiston.

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SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

ADA COUNTY

- Boise State University plans to build a \$12 million Alumni and Friends Center. The 43,000-square-foot building will replace the existing center. Construction is slated to begin this summer and be completed in fall of 2015.
- Albertsons LLC will pay Boise State University \$12.5 million to rename Bronco Stadium as Albertson Stadium. The money will be paid over 15 years.
- The merger between Bank of the Cascades and Home Federal was completed in May. A total of six branches were closed due to their proximity to other branches.
- United Heritage Insurance plans a 20,000-square-foot building next to its Meridian headquarters. The \$4 million building will take about a year to complete and include several energy efficient upgrades including a solar array on the roof. Only half of the building will be occupied by the company. The other half will be available for lease.
- Boise Fry Co. is moving to the former Café de Paris restaurant space in downtown Boise and plans to open in late summer. Guru Doughnuts is also moving to the same building and is leasing the kitchen from the Boise Fry Co.
- Gardner Co. plans to break ground on its City Center Plaza project in July. The \$70 million project will include retail, office and a convention center as well an underground transportation hub.
- Mountain West Bank broke ground on a new branch in Meridian. The 11,500-square-foot branch will employ around 50 and open in early 2015.
- Hewlett-Packard plans to cut its workforce by another several thousand by October. This is in addition to the reductions the company made over the last couple of years. No word if the Boise facility will be affected.

CANYON COUNTY

- Walmart is hiring up to 95 for its new Neighborhood Market in Nampa. Workers have already started preparing for the grand opening this summer.

OWYHEE COUNTY

- Bruneau Grand View Joint School District officials are taking steps to consolidate all three of their schools into the Rimrock Junior/Senior High school facility. Some staff and all district funding for the athletic program will be cut. A \$1.2 million supplemental levy failed to pass for a second time.

OPENINGS

- Seacoast Commerce Bank in Boise
- Lush, a cosmetics retailer, in Meridian
- Olivin, an olive oil and vinegar tasting room, in Boise
- Olive and Vyne, an olive oil and vinegar tasting room, in Eagle
- Wasabi, a sushi restaurant, in Boise
- Shayna Ariel Photography in Mountain Home
- Sugarbums, an intimate apparel store, in Boise
- Kindness, a restaurant, in Boise
- The Counter, a restaurant, in Meridian
- Juniper Kitchen and Cocktails in Boise
- Le Peep, a breakfast and lunch restaurant, in Meridian
- Leaf Teahouse in Boise
- Microsoft specialty store in Boise
- Lane Structural Engineering in Boise
- Expansions
- Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center's Neuroscience Institute to include memory and stroke clinics.

EXPANSIONS

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SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO

Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka and Twin Falls counties

AGRICULTURE

- Sugar beet growers have asked the U.S. Department of Commerce to investigate potential sugar dumping by Mexico. The allegations stem from increased imports from Mexico during a time in 2006 when sugar prices dropped by 50 percent. Mexico's share of the sugar market doubled in 2013 from 9 percent while the U.S. Department of Agriculture spent \$278 million in 2013 on sugar subsidiaries to mitigate the impact of low prices on producers. U.S. sugar growers claim they will lose a billion dollars in 2014. The U.S. International Trade Commission has preliminarily agreed with the charges, and the Department of Commerce will likely issue a ruling in 2015. Sugar beet production continues to fall across the nation as producers shift to more profitable crops.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grants to 117 schools across Idaho. This is an initiative to introduce fruits and vegetables as snacks that students normally would not try and will likely include many Idaho products. There were 20 schools in south central Idaho that will receive on average \$21,000 in grant funding from a statewide total of nearly \$532,000.
- The first cutting of hay occurred in south central Idaho with mixed results due to rain. The weather has been excellent for the most part with

planting ahead of schedule for corn and beans. Temperatures have ranged from up to six degrees higher than the normal so concern for hay and alfalfa quality as the summer progresses is high especially considering prices for quality hay at as much as \$250 a ton. The continued drought in California will see heightened competition for the commodity.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BLAINE COUNTY

- The Life Church Wood River broke ground May 31 for its 8,600-square-foot church in Hailey. The church has changed names since 1979 when it was founded but held the ground since 1997. It will be the first new church in Hailey in 25 years.
- A \$10.5 million two-year road levy failed in Blaine County by 109 votes. Forty-eight percent of voters favored it. The county commissioners expect to resubmit the request. They are also considering raising vehicle registration fees in the county to subsidize roadwork, tying it more directly to users.
- Iconoclast Bookstore has raised over \$69,000 in donations to keep its doors open. The continued poor economy in the destination tourist resort area of Ketchum threatens boutique, niche retail businesses that are part of the draw for many return visitors and second homeowners. "I've had donations from people as far away as France, England and South Africa," owner Sarah Hedrick said. Fundraising included a concert by Carol King, who signed books in the store on many occasions.
- The Community School board has approved construction of a new Creative Arts and Middle School. It has pledges of \$6 million, and the remaining \$1.5 million will be raised through a capital campaign. The 20,500-square-foot two-story building will include a lunchroom, music and arts classrooms, a production studio, a maker's laboratory and a test kitchen. Work will begin this summer after the current middle school is razed. Completion is scheduled for May 2015.
- The city of Sun Valley will replace the wall around the iconic Sinclair Station on Trail Creek Road near the resort. All Seasons Landscaping will replace the pathway wall for \$220,000 before Labor Day.
- The Ketchum City Council voted unanimously to prohibit non-domestic and exotic animals from performing in circuses in the city. Students from Sage School presented their case for the ban to the city councils in the Wood River Valley, but Ketchum was the only one to act.

GOODING COUNTY

- Wendell School District voters renewed a \$155,000 two-year supplemental levy. There will be no change to tax bills. The district is still addressing facility issues after a \$3.1 million bond failed earlier this year.
- Hub City High School graduated its first class this spring. There were 11 graduates in the Wendell School District's alternative high school, which was started last fall in the former fire station. The school was created after numerous students moved to Hagerman's alternative high school

and possibly other surrounding school districts, highlighting the need for an alternative school.

JEROME COUNTY

- The Minidoka War Relocation Center, also referred to as the Hunt Camp, is undergoing renovation of its entry guard tower. Boise State University's Construction Management Program students are doing the work, and the Friends of Minidoka also received a \$280,000 matching grant from the National Park Service. At its peak, the Hunt Camp was the seventh largest city in Idaho with a population of over 13,000 Japanese Americans. Morrison Knudsen of Boise was awarded the \$3.5 million contract to build the camp in 1942. Cole Architects and Axiom Engineering are handling the project, which should be completed this summer. The National Park Service is currently planning and designing a Visitor's Center that could open by 2017.
- The Valley School District renewed a \$300,000 two-year levy that will support the 600-student district that includes Hazelton and much of rural Jerome County. The supplemental levy will support programs and teaching positions.
- The Canyons Park Authority Board, a group of recreationists, is seeking a \$258,000 Recreational Trails Program grant and a \$515,400 Recreational Road and Bridge Fund grant to create a park on the north rim of the Snake River Canyon at the Perrine Bridge into Twin Falls. The board has formally asked the Jerome County Commission to contribute to the match required to obtain the grants. The board hopes to raise \$150,000 from donors throughout the Magic Valley.
- Standlee Hay has set up a distribution center for its feed products in Hagerstown, Md., to serve customers in eastern, mid-western, mid-Atlantic and northeastern states. The company will hire 20, and the hay product will arrive by rail at the distribution center and then be distributed by truck.
- Idaho Milk Products will pay \$170,000 in fines to the Environmental Protection Agency for releasing water with too-high acidity rates into the local wastewater. Local officials acknowledged there was no damage to the plant or its infrastructure from the release. In April 2012, the company paid \$52,000 in fines to the EPA for the same kind of violation, guaranteeing then to hire an internal monitor.

OPENING

- Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott in Twin Falls with 92 rooms and 125-person conference room. The property is managed by Pennbridge Lodging Corp. of Utah.

LAYOFF

- Chobani will reduce its workforce in Twin Falls by an unknown number. The layoffs will impact temporary workers hired to package yogurt until custom designed equipment is installed. Other Chobani employees affected by the layoff will receive an eight-week severance packages, according to the company.

CLOSURE

- The Orpheum Theatre, the Motor Vu Drive-In and the Twin Cinema 12 in Twin Falls after 50 years in operation as owner Larry Roper retires.

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SOUTHEASTERN & EASTERN IDAHO

Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida & Power counties

COUNTY DEVELOPMENTS

BANNOCK COUNTY

- Last month, the Idaho State University awarded a bid to Mickelson Construction out of Blackfoot to remove the iconic "I" on Red Hill. Work on the hillside is expected to be complete by the end of the summer. Portions of Red Hill and the trails below were closed last fall after erosion to the hillside raised safety concerns. After several months of studies, the university decided to remove the "I" for safety reasons. A committee is exploring several options for replacing the landmark and is actively seeking ideas from current students and alumni.
- Officials with C-A-L Ranch Stores are planning to move their longtime Pocatello store to the Pine Ridge Mall in Chubbuck later this year. The store will reopen in the former Macy's location in September.
- State and local leaders gathered at the Idaho Central Credit Union in Chubbuck to discuss the future of economic development in southeastern Idaho. The event, cosponsored by the Idaho National Laboratory, the credit union and Portneuf Medical Center, considered creation of a regional economic development organization.

BEAR LAKE COUNTY

- A study conducted by a team of Idaho State University graduate students found that a proposed new mine near Paris would be an economic boon to the area. The mine would generate over 350 new jobs and millions of dollars in payroll in other economic sectors including education, hospitality, retail, health care and government.

BONNEVILLE COUNTY

- Melaleuca recently hosted a mortgage burning party for 24 employees and independent contractors compensated by the company. The party is an annual tradition, and over the past few years 167 people associated with the Idaho Falls-based company have burned their mortgages.
- Within a year Ammon will be the home for a new Cabela's store. In the meantime, the cities of Ammon and Idaho Falls are cooperating on a \$3.5 million expansion and widening of Hitt Road to handle the increase in traffic expected with the retailer's opening.

CARIBOU COUNTY

- To reduce the risk of summer wildfires, the Bureau of Land Management has been conducting planned burns on about 40 acres. Officials hope the

burns rejuvenate quaking aspen stands and encourage new growth of mountain shrubs while reducing the amount of fuel for fire, enhancing the safety and property protection around Soda Springs.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

- Rigby is the latest Idaho city to undergo a community review. The goal is to help the city create a community development strategy through expert advice on economic and community development. The community review involves two teams – one of local leaders and the other of experts in development and planning in areas like the arts, education, recreation, economics, business, zoning and financial services. The Idaho Community Review program is a collaborative project of the Idaho Rural Partnership, the Association of Idaho Cities, the Idaho Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, the University of Idaho, the Idaho Department of Labor and a host of other federal, state, local and private organizations. For more information, see http://irp.idaho.gov/home/community_review/

MADISON COUNTY

- After becoming a four-year school in 2001, enrollment at Brigham Young University-Idaho grew annually until a year ago. The spring term in 2013 broke that trend. According to school officials, enrollment declined to 12,931 from 14,007, a drop of 7.7 percent. The school cited the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' recent decision to lower the minimum age for missionary service as the reason. Traditionally, many Mormon young adults choose to serve volunteer missions for the church, and the lowered age requirement has served to increase the number of those missionaries.

POWER COUNTY

- Magnida Magnolia Nitrogen Idaho moved one step closer to building a \$1.5 billion fertilizer plant in Power County in May when the Department of Environmental Quality issued an air permit for the proposed plant. Magnida Chief Executive Ric Sorbo said the agency received just four comments on its application, raising concern about possible odor and dust emissions. When complete, the plant will create an estimated 165 jobs. Sorbo said the estimated economic boost to Power County and southeastern Idaho could be close to \$1 billion.

TETON COUNTY

- The city of Victor is seeking a Federal Lands Access Program grant. The \$1.5 million grant would fund a bike path connecting the community to the Wyoming boarder. If the grant is awarded, Victor will need to contribute \$100,000 to the project.

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For the most current state and national economic indicators, view the Idaho labor market website at labor.idaho.gov/lmi.

State of Idaho Data — State Economic Indicators

	May 2014**	Apr 2014*	May 2013	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	779,600	778,600	776,000	0.1	0.5
Unemployment	37,900	38,800	49,500	-2.3	-23.4
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.9	5.0	6.4		
Total Employment	741,700	739,800	726,500	0.3	2.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	779,100	774,700	776,900	0.6	0.3
Unemployment	33,600	38,400	45,800	-12.5	-26.6
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.3	5.0	5.9		
Total Employment	745,500	736,300	731,100	1.2	2.0
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾					
	May 2014	Apr 2014	May 2013		
	6.3	6.3	7.5		
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE				% Change From	
	May 2014**	Apr 2014*	May 2013	Last Month	Last Year
Claims Activities					
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	5,077	6,576	6,230	-22.8	-18.5
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	40,161	48,932	49,005	-17.9	-18.0
Benefit Payment Activities ⁽⁵⁾					
Weeks Compensated	40,161	47,370	38,804	-15.2	3.5
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$8,560,405.44	\$13,004,822.95	\$9,620,721.61	-34.2	-11.0
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$213.15	\$274.54	\$247.93	-22.4	-14.0
Covered Employers	47,455	47,211	46,848	0.5	1.3
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$131,818,189	\$132,878,505	\$161,687,553	-0.8	-18.5
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾					
	May 2014	Apr 2013	May 2013	% Change Month	% Change Year
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	234.22	233.44	229.38	0.3	2.1
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	232.90	237.07	232.94	0.3	2.1

**Forecast data

* Preliminary estimate

(2) Unadjusted. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) Includes all entitlements on intrastate and interstate agent, new and additional claims.

(4) Includes all entitlements, intrastate and interstate agent.

(5) Includes all entitlements, total liable activities.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA): A county or a combination of counties in which at least half the residents live in an urban center of 50,000 or more and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. Idaho has five MSAs: Boise MSA including Ada, Canyon, Boise, Gem and Owyhee counties; Bonneville MSA including Bonneville and Jefferson counties; Pocatello MSA including Bannock and Power counties; Lewiston MSA including Nez Perce County and Asotin County, Wash.; Coeur d’Alene MSA including Kootenai County.

Micropolitan Statistical Area (MicSA): Combinations of counties in which at least half the residents live in urban centers totaling at least 10,000—or 5,000 living in a single urban center—and the rest have significant commuting ties to that central county. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MicSAs. Idaho has three MicSAs: Burley MicSA including Cassia and Minidoka counties; Rexburg MicSA including Madison and Fremont counties; Twin Falls MicSA including Twin Falls and Jerome counties.

Glossary of Labor Market Terms (cont.)

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Small Labor Market Areas (SLMA): Combinations of counties with significant ties through commuting patterns but no urban centers with populations of 10,000 or more. The Office of Management and Budget designates the SLMAs. Idaho has two SLMAs: Hailey SLMA including Blaine and Camas counties; Grangeville SLMA including Lewis and Idaho counties.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.

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